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NYASALAND.

REPORT FOR 1910-11.

(For Report for 1909-10, *see* No. 655.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
October, 1911.



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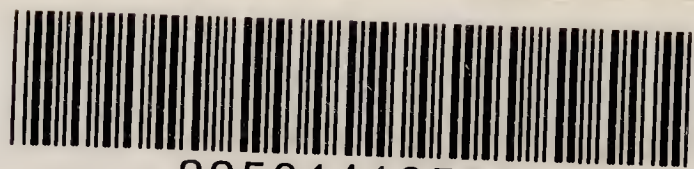
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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
I. FINANCE	4
II. TRADE	4
III. AGRICULTURE	11
IV. LEGISLATION	12
V. EDUCATION	13
VI. JUDICIAL	13
VII. VITAL STATISTICS	14
VIII. POSTAL	14
IX. MILITARY	15
X. NATIVE AFFAIRS	15
XI. GENERAL... ..	16

SKETCH MAP.

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No. 692.

NYASALAND.

(For Report for 1909-10, *see* No. 655.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Zomba,
Nyasaland Protectorate,
August 5, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Nyasaland Protectorate for the year 1910-11.

I have, &c.,

W. H. MANNING,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

I.—FINANCE.

1. The revenue of the Protectorate for the year 1910-11 (exclusive of the Imperial Grant-in-Aid, the British South Africa Company's contribution, and land sales) was £86,430, being £17,533 over the estimate and £17,838 more than the revenue collected in the preceding financial year.

Sales of Crown lands produced £550, and the British South Africa Company contributed £8,000, making the total revenue £94,980.

Compared with the Estimates, there is a revenue increase under every head with the single exception of "Interest," where there is a shortage of £16. The chief increases in revenue are:—£6,289 in Customs; £6,884 in native hut taxes; £1,474 in port dues, &c.; £1,051 in licences, &c.

2. The total expenditure for the year was £112,369, which is £489 in excess of the Estimates, and £3,641 more than was expended in 1909-10.

Compared with the Estimates, the chief increases are as follows:—

	£
Military	648
Public works extraordinary	950
Pensions	458
Public works recurrent	301
Medical Department	207

but these are almost counterbalanced by savings on as many as twelve heads of expenditure, the largest savings being:—

£766	under Public Works Department,
£454	„ Miscellaneous,
£233	„ Marine Transport,
£214	„ Audit Department.

3. The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1906-7	82,106	111,564
1907-8	75,197	105,587
1908-9	80,534	103,032
1909-10	76,647	108,728
1910-11	94,980	112,369

II.—TRADE.

4. The general external trade of the Protectorate (import and export), not including goods in transit, amounted, in value, to £368,621, as against £223,495 in the year 1909-10, showing an increase of £145,126, equal to 64 per cent.

5. The value of imports for home consumption has increased from £112,629 to £199,710, or 77 per cent. In revenue-yielding

imports (included in the above total) there is an increase of £80,245, or 75 per cent. Soft goods, *i.e.*, cotton piece goods and printed calicoes, form the bulk of dutiable imports and show an increase of £60,935—fully 99 per cent. Free goods, consisting principally of agricultural implements and machinery, have increased by £9,438, equal to 47 per cent. Provisions, hardware, and sundries also show substantial increases.

6. The improvement in the import trade is in some measure due to the fact that a number of natives employed in the Transvaal have been repatriated during the year, and have brought into the Protectorate the bulk of their wages. The main cause is, however, the increase in exports and the satisfactory prices obtained for produce on the home markets—in other words the growing general prosperity of the country.

Of the total imports 76 per cent. came from the United Kingdom, 6 per cent. from British Colonies, and 18 per cent. from foreign countries.

7. Under exports there is again a satisfactory increase—the total being 794 tons in weight (21 per cent.) and £50,672 in value (52 per cent.) in excess of the exports in the previous year. The principal products which show an increase are:—cotton, 392 tons in weight (102 per cent.) and £32,478 in value (123 per cent.); tobacco, 276 tons in weight (57 per cent.) and £15,507 in value (37 per cent.); rubber, 32,327 lbs. in weight (119 per cent.) and £6,398 in value (150 per cent.); tea, 5,761 lbs. in weight (16 per cent.) and £144 in value (16 per cent.); chillies, 32,530 lbs. in weight (27 per cent.) and £542 in value (27 per cent.); fibre, 6,550 lbs. in weight (25 per cent.) and £40 in value (14 per cent.). Products which appear on the export list for the first time are:—mica (22½ tons, value £2,561); cotton seed (61 tons, value £213); and maize flour (187 tons, value £936). About the same quantity of maize grain has been exported as in the previous year, but the value shows an increase of £2,000. The export of cattle has increased from 2 to 262 head, value £786. Cultivated rubber has not, so far, been exported in large quantities. The amount shipped during the year was 4,087 lbs. against 2,623 lbs. in 1909-10, being an increase of 55 per cent.

The cultivation of coffee, which was at one time the staple product of Nyasaland, has gradually been abandoned, and the export of that article has steadily declined from 932 tons in 1899-1900 to 149 tons in the year under review. The quantity exported in 1909-10 was 334 tons, so that there is a decrease of 185 tons or 55 per cent. The export of ground-nuts has decreased by 98 tons, equal to 29 per cent. This product is not systematically cultivated but is purchased by traders from natives in varying quantities.

8. The direction of the export trade has been in the following proportions:—83 per cent. to the United Kingdom, 4 per cent. to British Colonies, and 13 per cent. to foreign countries.

9. The value of goods from overseas which passed in transit through the Protectorate, was £23,415 as against £15,113 in the previous year, an increase of 55 per cent. From the 1st of April, 1910, all transit and harbour dues have been remitted on goods

imported into, or exported from, North Eastern Rhodesia; the trade with that territory has consequently extended and it amounts to 77 per cent. of the total transit trade.

The export of the produce of surrounding territories in transit has increased from £5,246 to £7,675 (46 per cent.). It consisted chiefly of ivory, tobacco, rubber, and cotton.

10. During the dry season the usual transport difficulties had to be contended with owing to the shallowness of the river, and produce suffered a certain amount of deterioration by being stored for long periods at Port Herald. About 300 tons of grain were damaged and totally lost. The country appears to have reached the limit of production unless better transport facilities are provided. A considerable part of the crops of 1910, notably cotton, had not been exported by the end of the financial year.

11. The number of vessels that cleared from the Protectorate during the year was 206. They transported 5,137 tons of produce, and 263 European, 60 Indian, and 2,565 native passengers. In the previous year the number of vessels was 369, and the cargo transport 4,607 tons. From Chinde to the Protectorate 128 vessels were cleared, carrying 4,730 tons of cargo, and 335 European, 94 Indian, and 3,794 native passengers. The amount of cargo carried inwards in the year 1909-10 was 2,820 tons.

12. There is every reason to anticipate that the import trade during the ensuing year will, at least, equal the volume of trade in the year under review. The cultivation of cotton by natives, which is rapidly extending, will be responsible for the distribution of money and consequent increase in the consumption of soft goods, which form the bulk of the imports.

It is confidently expected that there will also be a considerable increase in other imports for home consumption and in agricultural machinery and building materials.

13. The prospects as regards exports are very favourable. The greater areas placed under the various annual crops will more than counterbalance any average losses due to the late rains, while tea, rubber, and fibre will be produced in considerable quantities.

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1909-10.	1910-11.	1909-10.	1910-11.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	78,901	150,630	76,172	140,651
India	7,918	10,765	—	—
South Africa	1,093	2,088	10,710	6,274
Canada	6	12	—	—
Australia	1	60	—	—
North Eastern Rhodesia	48	128	—	7
British East Africa	—	—	—	23
Total British Possessions ...	9,066	13,053	10,710	6,304

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1909-10.	1910-11.	1909-10.	1910-11.
	£	£	£	£
Germany	12,922	22,057	11,334	13,057
America	738	632	—	—
France	729	1,130	—	—
Portugal and Portuguese East Africa ...	4 074	4,352	10,603	8,851
Belgium	—	809	—	—
Italy... ..	66	59	—	—
Holland	4,956	6,022	—	—
Norway and Sweden	—	40	—	—
Austria	—	185	—	—
Other Countries	1,177	741	2,047	48
Total Foreign Countries ...	24,662	36,027	23,984	21,956
Total	112,629	199,710	110,866	168,911

NOTE.—The above includes :—

	£	£
1909-10, specie imported from the United Kingdom	846	
„ „ exported to South Africa ...	10,000	
„ „ „ Portuguese East Africa	3,362	
	—	13,362
1910-11, specie imported from the United Kingdom	6,100	
„ „ imported from Portuguese East Africa	120	
	—	6,220
„ „ exported to United Kingdom	15,150	
„ „ „ South Africa ...	5,000	
„ „ „ Portuguese East Africa	585	
	—	20,735

COMPARATIVE TABLE.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of imports and exports (not including goods in transit) as compared with the previous year are as follows :—

	1909-10.	1910-11.
	£	£
Trade Imports	106,167	186,412
Government Imports ...	5,616	7,078
Specie	846	6,220
Total Imports	112,629	199,710
*Total Exports	110,866	168,911
	223,495	368,621

* Includes specie—1909-10, £13,362 ; 1910-11, £20,735.

The following table shows the value of goods passed through the Protectorate in transit to and from surrounding territories during the year ended 31st March, 1911:—

	£
Arms and Ammunition	536
Alcohol	294
Provisions	1,744
Hardware	2,030
Soft Goods	15,628
Wax	127
Ivory	4,167
Tobacco	1,184
Rubber	104
Sundries	5,276
Total	31,090

NOTE.—The above includes goods to the value of £10,472 which have been entered for transit but had not left the Protectorate on the 31st March, 1911. The value of goods imported in transit to surrounding territories from countries overseas amounted to £16,849 as against £10,191 during the previous year.

The following table shows the value of goods in transit to and from surrounding territories during the five years 1906-7 to 1910-11:—

A.—Transit to surrounding territories.				B.—Transit from surrounding territories.			
Year.			Value. £	Year.			Value. £
1906-07	...	...	20,402	1906-07...	...	...	19,855
1907-08	...	...	19,041	1907-08...	...	...	4,223
1908-09	...	...	14,182	1908-09...	...	...	5,993
1909-10	...	...	15,113	1909-10...	...	...	5,246
1910-11	...	...	23,415	1910-11...	...	...	7,675

The following statement shows the value of the transit trade during the year 1910-11 as compared with 1909-10:—

	1909-10.	1910-11.
	£	£
<i>En route</i> to surrounding territories ...	15,113	23,415
From surrounding territories ...	5,246	7,675
Total	20,359	31,090

The following shows the value of imports and exports during the past five years, not including goods in transit:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
£	£	£
1906-7	242,935	50,247
1907-8	169,541	68,604
1908-9	140,916	122,644
1909-10	112,629	110,866
1910-11	199,710	168,911

NOTE.—The above includes—

	£	£
Import of specie:—1908-9	2,205	
„ „ 1909-10	846	
„ „ 1910-11	6,220	
Export of specie:—1908-9	40,853	
„ „ 1909-10	13,362	
„ „ 1910-11	20,735	

IMPORTS.

Imports, including specie, amounted to £199,710, being £87,081 more than in the previous year. General details are shown in the following statement:—

	1909-10.	1910-11.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Arms and ammunition	1,400	2,115	715
Alcohol (spirituous liquor)	1,530	2,182	652
Provisions, including beer and wines	14,994	17,493	2,499
Hardware	9,046	13,058	4,012
Soft goods	61,192	122,127	60,935
Free goods	19,865	29,303	9,438
Sundries	3,756	7,212	3,456
Specie	846	6,220	5,374
Total	112,629	199,710	87,081

NOTE.—The above figures include—

Free imports by Nyasaland Administration, 1909-10, £5,616; 1910-11, £7,078.

Exports during the year ended 31st March, 1911, as compared with the previous year:—

1909-1910.			1910-1911.			Increase.		Decrease.	
Weight.			Price per lb. (local).			Value.		Weight.	
Lbs.			Lbs.			£		Lbs.	
Coffee	...	748,410	5d.	...	334,161	15,574	6,962	414,249	£ 8,612
Tea ...	...	36,281	6d.	...	42,042	907	1,051	—	—
Mica	...	—	—	...	51,222	—	2,561	—	—
Ivory	...	3,529	10s.	...	3,180	1,765	1,590	349	175
Hippo teeth	...	70	2s.	...	380	7	38	—	—
Rubber	...	27,144	3s.	...	59,471	4,261	10,659	—	—
Oil seeds	...	55,465	4d.	...	102,098	924	1,319	—	—
Beeswax	...	56,785	1s.	...	80,736	2,854	4,037	—	—
Strophanthus	...	12,142	2s. 6d.	...	16,818	1,518	2,102	—	—
Chillies	...	119,126	4d.	...	151,656	1,986	2,528	—	—
Tobacco	...	1,084,757	6d.	...	1,704,637	27,120	42,627	—	—
Cotton	...	858,926	6d. to 7½d.	...	1,736,999	26,209	58,687	—	—
Ground-nuts	...	760,043	1½d	...	540,827	4,750	2,915	219,216	1,835
Rice...	...	52,466	£5 per ton	...	128,223	131	286	—	—
Fibre	...	25,594	£20 to £30 per ton	...	32,144	290	330	—	—
Cattle	...	—	—	...	—	6	786	—	—
Maize	...	4,480,784	£2 per ton	...	4,560,332	4,012	6,123	—	—
Maize flour...	...	—	—	...	419,680	—	936	—	—
Cotton seed	...	—	—	...	137,384	—	213	—	—
Sundries	...	—	—	...	—	5,190	2,426	—	2,764
Total	...	8,321,522	—	...	10,101,990	97,504	148,176	633,814	13,386
Specie	...	—	—	...	—	13,362	20,735	—	—
Grand Total	...	8,321,522	—	...	10,101,990	110,866	168,911	633,814	13,386

Net increase in weight, ignoring Sundries and Specie ... 1,780,468 lbs. (794 tons).

“ value of Total Exports ... £58,045

“ Trade “ (i.e., Total Exports less Specie) ... £50,672

NOTE.—1910-11.

Valuation of maize increased from £2 to £3.

“ “ ground-nuts reduced from £14 to £12.

III.—AGRICULTURE.

14. A general review of the agricultural situation shows that the past year has been most successful, as evinced by the largely increased export of agricultural produce, the general prosperity of planters, and the keen demand for agricultural land within transportable distance from the railway. The forward movement reported last year has continued. Cotton and tobacco may now be considered as the principal cultivations of the Protectorate, and as likely to increase if transport facilities are extended.

15. Coffee is still being discarded in favour of cotton and tobacco, the total acreage of this crop for the year under review being only 5,629½. The season, although favourable for cotton and tobacco, was unfavourable for coffee, with the result that the total export for the past year amounted to no more than 334,161 lbs. as against 748,410 lbs. in the previous season.

16. The year under review was the best cotton season which the Protectorate has experienced, cotton ripening late into the season, and on many estates producing the heaviest crop that has been reaped since its introduction as a European cultivation. The European acreage increased from 8,975 in the previous year to 12,752 for the year under review, whilst the crop at present being harvested covers over 23,000 acres. The exported crop, in bales of 400 lbs., for 1909-10 amounted to 2,147, and for the year under review to 4,342, showing an increase of over 100 per cent. in a single season. A gratifying feature is the increased interest which planters are now taking in seed selection. The results of the experiments carried out on the Government agricultural stations show the great advantage and profit of such work as is being undertaken there.

The quality of the staple has been maintained, and the first-class cotton of the Protectorate shows such improvement that its valuation fluctuates more with the Egyptian crop than with the American crop as in the past. The large Egyptian crop last season made prices a little lower than in the previous season, but the top price of the season, viz., 1s. per lb., shows that Nyasaland Upland still maintains its position as the highest priced Upland cotton in the world. This excellent variety is becoming thoroughly acclimatised, and its success in West Africa and Rhodesia indicates that it will become in time the most extensively grown variety in the new cotton fields of Africa. Its special quality is its wonderful adaptability to elevations of from 1,000 to 3,000 feet, its high degree of immunity from bacterial blight, and its hardiness.

The Egyptian crop on the lower river was more successful than in the previous year, as planters now understand that it is useless to attempt to grow Egyptian cotton except on the best drained parts of plantations at elevations under 1,000 feet.

The native cotton crop has risen from 220 tons to 692 tons. In several districts this industry has now become so thoroughly established as to admit of the withdrawal of the hut tax rebate which was allowed as an incentive to native cultivators when the enterprise was first introduced. The experiment of encouraging natives to apply themselves to this cultivation has proved a

remarkable success in every way. It is worthy of note that some of the native cotton from Mlanje District has sold for as much as 1s. per lb.

17. A large increase in the acreage of tea plantations has to be recorded, viz., from 518 to 1,037 acres. The export of tea was 42,042 lbs. as against 34,601 lbs. The area of tea actually in bearing, however, is still relatively small, the crop being one which requires several years to arrive at the productive stage. The success of this industry has attracted much attention and interest, with the result that improved machinery for the treatment of the crop has been imported, and considerable competition has arisen for land in the tea-growing portions of Mlanje District.

18. The tobacco season has been satisfactory, although not quite so good as last year. The acreage under this crop is 3,274, while the export of tobacco for the year under review amounts to 1,704,637 lbs. as compared with 1,084,757 in the previous year.

19. The acreage under rubber is still increasing (present acreage—9,072½) and although no estates are in full bearing, rubber promises well in Mlanje, West Shire, and parts of the Shire highlands. It is now proved, however, that rubber cannot be profitably cultivated in all parts of the Protectorate.

Para rubber in the West Nyasa District still continues to show much promise, and the acreage under this crop has been increased to 726½ acres in the past year.

The exploitation of *Landolphia parvifolia* has been carefully conducted by the African Lakes Corporation, Limited. The value of this product is satisfactory, viz., 3s. 9d. to 4s. 4d., with fine white Para quoted at 5s. 2½d. Good prices have led to a large increase in the export of rubber, extracted principally from wild vines. The total quantity exported during the year under review amounts to 59,471 lbs.

20. Exports of maize for the year under review amounted to 39,984 cwts., valued locally at £6,002, showing an increase in local value of £1,990. This, however, is not a tithe of what could be exported if transport facilities were improved. The local purchase price of maize from natives at harvest time is £1 to £1 5s. per ton.

21. The export of chillies during the past year amounted to 142,176 lbs. as against 119,126 lbs. in the previous year, showing a considerable increase. There was a good demand for the crop.

22. Afforestation has been continued on Zomba plateau, and considerable areas have been planted with firewood timbers, principally gums, in Zomba and Blantyre.

23. *Live Stock*.—Cattle owned by Europeans, 10,313; native cattle, 44,681. The price of draught cattle has increased, owing to growing transport necessities induced by larger crops, and to the tendency to make use of cattle for agricultural operations.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

24. Thirteen Ordinances have been enacted during the year

V.—EDUCATION.

25. There are no Government schools in the Protectorate, native education being in the hands of the missionary societies established in various districts.

During the past four years Government has made an annual grant of £1,000 in aid of primary education, which has been allocated, under certain conditions, to those societies desirous of participating. There are 1,237 schools in the Protectorate, the majority of which are “village schools” (*i.e.*, schools in charge of native teachers, superintended by Europeans from the headquarters of the missions), at which 95,137 natives receive instruction, the average attendance being 61,936. Native artisans are trained in the industrial schools attached to the headquarters of most of the missions, where carpentry, printing, bookbinding, agriculture, horticulture, and other practical trades are taught, much to the benefit of local industries.

During the year satisfactory progress has been made in the teaching of hygiene and sanitation, and a manual on hygiene suitable for the conditions prevailing in the country is about to be published for use by native teachers in elementary schools.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

26. The number of cases tried in the High Court shows a falling off. The recent marked progress in commerce and industries will probably cause an increase in litigation in the near future, but at present this forward movement is of too recent date to affect the business of the Courts.

In the subordinate Courts there has been an increase of nearly 500, or about 20 per cent., in the number of offences reported. This however is undoubtedly due to the increasing confidence of natives in the Magisterial Courts of their various Districts, and not to any abnormal prevalence of crime.

27. A total of 96 cases came up for confirmation from the subordinate Courts to the High Court during the year under review, as against 139 cases in 1909-10, 96 in 1908-9, and 83 in 1907-8. These cases are classified as follows:—

Murder, other than wife or child murder ...	18
Manslaughter	12
Attempt to murder	4
Rape	1
Other offences against the person	27
Offences against property	30
Miscellaneous offences	4
	—
	96
	—

28. In four cases of murder sentence of death was carried out.

29. In the High Court 33 civil cases were entered. Eight estates of deceased persons were wound up by the Registrar.

30. One candidate qualified at the Government Law examination during the year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

31. The European population is returned at 766 as against 587 last year, showing an increase of 179.

32. The Asiatic population amounts to 481 as against 435 in 1909-10, being an increase of 46.

33. Twenty European births were registered, as compared with 18 last year.

34. The registered deaths number 12, as against 16 last year.

The deaths are made up as follows:—

European—Male (adults)	...	...	...	8
Female (infant)	...	...	...	1
Asiatic—Male (adults)	...	...	...	3

There were two deaths among Government officials. The majority of these deaths resulted from malaria, hæmoglobinuric (blackwater) fever, and dysentery.

35. Thirteen marriages were celebrated during the year as compared with sixteen in the preceding year.

36. The native population is estimated at 969,183.

VIII.—POSTAL.

37. The proposal to start a Post Office Savings Bank, which was made six years ago, was carried out on the 12th of November, 1910, when a Savings Bank Ordinance was passed in the Legislative Council, and submitted to the Secretary of State for approval. The limit of a deposit is to be £200, and 2½ per cent. interest is to be allowed to depositors. At first only the four more important Post Offices will conduct Savings Bank business. The Bank opened on the 1st of July, 1911.

38. The cash on delivery system of importing goods through the post has been much used this year; 158 of these parcels entered the Protectorate, valued at £333.

39. Postal revenue from all sources shows an increase on that for the previous year of £1,331; and a decrease in expenditure of £1,220. The net result is a deficit of £1,376. Money orders issued have increased by £1,086, but money orders paid have decreased by £928. The sale of stamps to collectors amounted to £665. The sales of British postal orders are still on the increase, as will be seen from the following figures:—

Year.			Sales.	Poundage.	Paid.
			£	£	£
1909-10	...	...	10,040	136	6,634
1910-11	...	...	12,125	161	8,425

There is no doubt that the use of postal orders by the public has to a great extent superseded the practice of transmitting cash by hand, which was general a few years ago in this Protectorate.

40. Correspondence dealt with during the year is shown in the following figures:—

Letters	...	...	...	...	1,106,496
Post cards	...	...	...	...	21,919
Newspapers	...	...	...	...	181,628
Books and samples	...	...	...	...	104,375
Parcels	...	...	...	...	8,888
Closed bags	...	...	...	...	80

IX.—MILITARY.

41. After the return of the 1st Battalion, King's African Rifles, from Somaliland, a great number of men proceeded on leave prior to being discharged on completion of their period of service.

42. The reservists who had been engaged for service in Somaliland were demobilised on arrival at headquarters. This necessitated the enlistment of a large number of recruits to bring the battalion up to its full strength.

43. In September, 1910, the Inspector-General of the King's African Rifles visited Nyasaland on a tour of inspection and expressed himself as very satisfied with the condition and efficiency of the battalion. The results in musketry compare very favourably with results obtained in former years, the percentage obtained in the collective practices showing a marked improvement.

44. The health of the troops in Nyasaland has been remarkably good and no serious epidemics of any description have occurred among them.

One sepoy of the Indian contingent has been invalided to India suffering from chronic dyspnoea.

Venereal disease has been uncommon, and cases of smallpox entirely absent.

45. A considerable number of discharged soldiers still seek to enter the reserve, which maintains its popularity.

X.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

46. The condition of the native population continues to be peaceful and contented. In those districts in which native cotton cultivation has become established the prosperity of the inhabitants has been materially increased by the profits of that industry. The health of the native community has been quite satisfactory, apart from the existence of sleeping sickness, which has slowly extended during the last twelve months in spite of every effort to arrest it. In the present imperfect state of our knowledge it would be useless to attempt any forecast as to the proportions which the epidemic may attain. It is to be hoped that the energetic steps which are being taken to investigate this disease will result in discoveries which will enable the Government to act with more assurance and

effect than is possible so long as the vector of the malady is unknown.

47. As regards native labour, the Government has steadily pursued the policy of discouraging the emigration of natives to other territories by every just and lawful means in its power, being confident, in view of the rapid increase of agricultural industry in the Protectorate itself, and the ample opportunities of local employment which now exist, that such emigration must eventually be detrimental not only to the interests of local planters and others, but likewise to those of the native community, in whose case the larger wages obtainable in South Africa must be discounted by the prejudicial effect produced by intercourse with more sophisticated centres upon their simplicity of character, upon their habits of life, and upon the lot of their wives and families remaining behind. While, however, the Protectorate Government discountenances emigration for the above reasons as far as it legitimately can, it recognises that natives who have formed a settled determination to quit Nyasaland must be allowed to do so, and to such natives passes are issued accordingly. The number of passes so issued during the year under review amounted to 4,386.

48. The hut tax continues to be paid with regularity, and in most districts is collected without any difficulty, beyond the increased clerical work occasioned by the steady development of this source of revenue. The following table shows the hut tax returns for the last five years:—

						£
1906-7	...	...	...	...	...	35,619
1907-8	...	...	...	...	...	36,609
1908-9	...	...	...	...	...	38,389
1909-10	...	...	...	...	...	41,530
1910-11	...	...	...	...	...	46,534

49. It may be of interest to note that a proposal has been set on foot to organise in the Protectorate a subordinate native civil service, the advantages of which, more especially by way of security of tenure, periodical increments of salary, and a moderate provision for old age will, it is hoped, if the project is fulfilled, tend to attract and retain in Government employ an adequate staff of trained and intelligent native clerks. Of the native scholars now annually turned out by the missionary schools, the greater proportion, including the most capable and enterprising, leave the Protectorate almost as soon as they quit school, in order to avail themselves of the more attractive conditions and wider field offered by the South African Colonies.

XI.—GENERAL.

50. Apart from the presence of sleeping sickness the only factor which now seriously affects the growing prosperity of Nyasaland is the inadequacy of its communications. The need of a safe and regular outlet to and from the sea, always a serious difficulty, has been emphasised of late by a great increase in the production of exportable merchandise coupled with a persistent diminution in

[illegible]

the water of the Lower Shire River between Villa Bocage, the head of the permanent fair-way of the river, and Port Herald, where the Shire Highlands railway line commences. These two circumstances occurring in coincidence with each other have resulted in a very serious congestion of traffic during the dry season, when the river steamers cannot reach Port Herald, and must militate strongly against the natural tendency of a young and promising country to enlarge its activities. A still graver obstacle is now threatened or rather has been placed already in the way of local enterprise by the spread of tsetse fly, and the consequent closing of many important roads against all forms of animal transport. The last highway to be thus barred is the road between Blantyre, the chief commercial centre of the country, and Zomba, the administrative capital.

51. Fortunately the macadamisation of this road was begun some $2\frac{1}{2}$ years ago, and now extends for 23 miles, viz., more than half its length, so that motor vehicles and other mechanical means of transport can ply along that distance. This, the only piece of metalled road in the Protectorate other than township roads, was commenced on account of the impossibility of driving ox-waggons along ordinary unmade tracks during the rainy season from November to March. The spread of tsetse fly adds a new and still more cogent reason for increasing the mileage of metalled ways, and it is indeed only thus that the many promising agricultural settlements now existing in different parts of the Shire Highlands can hope for a safe and regular means of access to the railway line. The existing roads of the Protectorate have a total extent of 3,156 miles and may be classified as follows:—

Waggon roads	...	...	262	miles.
Main roads	...	...	679 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
District roads	...	...	2,214 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
				<hr/>
				3,156 „
				<hr/>

52. 2,195 head of game were killed under licence this year, including 24 elephants. The following licences were issued:—

A (£25)	...	...	...	...	14
B (£4)	...	...	...	...	118
C (£2)	...	...	...	...	75
Native (£1)	...	...	...	...	21

53. Owing to the increase of agricultural operations in the neighbourhood of Chiromo, the Game Reserve in the vicinity of that township, commonly known as the Elephant Marsh Reserve, was abolished on the 31st of March, 1911.

54. The depredations committed by buffaloes and many kinds of antelopes upon both European and native crops and the probability that the presence of wild animals may attract tsetse fly has led to a systematic revision of the game laws of this Protectorate, and to a considerable relaxation of the restrictions which have hitherto been enforced with regard to hunting generally.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.								Year.
660	Barbados	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909-1910
661	Swaziland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
662	Jamaica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
663	Straits Settlements	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909
664	Trinidad and Tobago	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909-1910
665	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909
666	Mauritius	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
667	British Honduras	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
668	St. Vincent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909-1910
669	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
670	Uganda	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
671	British Guiana	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
672	St. Lucia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909
673	Leeward Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909-1910
674	Northern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909
675	St. Helena	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1910
676	Gibraltar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
677	Basutoland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909-1910
678	Weihaiwei	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1910
679	Gambia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
680	Ashanti	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
681	Turks and Caicos Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
682	Falkland Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
683	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
684	Bahamas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1910-1911
685	Colonial Survey Committee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
686	Malta	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
687	Imperial Institute	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1910
688	Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
689	Fiji	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
690	Somaliland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1910-1911
691	Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1910

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.				Subject.
70	Colonies	...	...	...	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	...	...	...	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	...	...	...	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	...	...	...	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1906-7 and 1907-8.
75	West Indies	...	...	...	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1907-8.
77	St. Vincent	...	...	...	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	...	...	...	Census, 1911.